

**ATTACHMENT A****Remarks**

By this Amendment, minor changes have been made in the specification and in the drawings. In the claims, independent claim 1 has been amended and a new independent claim 9 has been added. Other dependent claims have also been amended consistent with the changes to independent claim 1 and/or for clarity; while claim 3 has been canceled. It is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

Initially in the *Drawings* section of the Detailed Action, the examiner required that figures 8-9 depicting that which was old be labeled with "Prior Art". By this Amendment, replacement drawings have been provided to do this.

Next, in the *Specification* section of the Detailed Action, the examiner required that reference to the claims in the Summary section be removed. By this Amendment, this has also been done.

Further, in the *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112* section, claim 8 was rejected for being indefinite. By this Amendment, the noted lack of antecedent basis has been corrected by changing "the" to "a".

Finally in the *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 & 103* sections, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7 were rejected as being anticipated by, or obvious over, the De Lucchi patent. However, for the following reasons, it is submitted that these claims are now all allowable over this reference.

It will initially be appreciated that independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3, which is now canceled. Thus, claim 1 now

particularly recites that the packing has an outer surface which is split into two side parts, and that each of these side parts includes a respective concave portion.

In the De Lucchi patent, there is a packing 9 which is split into two side parts (or half-planes 11A and 11B) by a hollow 12, as noted by the examiner. However, each side part 11A and 11B is flat.

It will thus be appreciated that there is no teaching or suggestion that each side part 11A, 11B of the packing disclosed in the De Lucchi patent include a respective concave portion as now recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 is neither disclosed nor made obvious by the De Lucchi patent and is thus now allowable. And for these same reasons, it is submitted that claims 2 and 4-8 dependent therefrom are similarly allowable.

In the *Allowable Subject Matter* section, the examiner indicated that dependent claim 8 contained allowable subject matter and hence would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. This indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated; and in response thereto, new claim 9 has been added which includes the subject matter of claim 8 and original claim 1 from which claim 8 depended. It is therefore submitted that new claim 9 is also allowable (and that dependent claim 8 is also now allowable based on its dependency from amended claim 1).

The remaining references which were cited but not applied are not believed to be pertinent to the patentability of the present invention.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is solicited.



ATTACHMENT D

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached Replacement sheets of drawings include the following changes:

- in figures 8 and 9: the addition of the legend "Prior Art".

The Replacement sheets replace the original or previously filed corresponding sheets having the same figures.